<u>REMARKS</u>

Claims 1 and 15-20 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 19, and 20 are independent. In this Amendment, Claims 2-14 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of their subject matter, Claim 1 has been amended, and Claims 15-20 have been added.

Applicant respectfully requests entry of this Amendment under 37 CFR § 1.116. Applicant submits that the Amendment is an earnest effort to advance prosecution and place the application in condition for allowance. Specifically, the Amendment cancels rejected Claims 2-14 and amends Claim 1 in a manner which Applicant believes places that claim in condition for allowance, or at least places it in better form for consideration on appeal. The amendments were not presented earlier because Applicant believed the claims, in their previous form, were in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests entry and consideration of this Amendment.

In the Official Action dated September 20, 2004, Claims 1 to 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), over U.S. Patent No. 5,414,811 (<u>Parulski</u>). To advance prosecution, and without conceding the propriety of the rejection, Applicant has cancelled Claims 2-14, and amended Claim 1 to even more clearly recite the invention it claims.

Specifically, independent Claim 1 is directed to an image processing apparatus including multiscreen synthesis means, image quality adjustment value storage means, image quality adjustment process means, and control means. The multiscreen synthesis means composes one screen by arranging plural images in the one screen. The image quality adjustment value storage means stores image quality adjustment values for plural kinds of image quality adjustment processes. The image quality adjustment process means executes the image quality adjustment processes for plural images on the basis of

the image quality adjustment values stored in the image quality adjustment value storage means. The control means converts the input image into a first image to which an image quality adjustment process is executed by the image quality adjustment process means on the basis of an image quality adjustment value which is determined in advance before performing an image quality adjustment operation stored in the image quality adjustment value storage means. The control means similarly converts the input image into a second image to which an image quality adjustment process is executed by the image quality adjustment process means on the basis of the image quality adjustment value for newly performing an adjustment operation, and then for displaying the converted first and second images on one screen with an arranged state by the multiscreen synthesis means.

Newly added Claims 15-18 depend from Claim 1. The image processing apparatus of Claim 15 includes image reduction means for reducing the input image, wherein the multiscreen synthesis means composes the one screen by arranging the plural images reduced by the image reduction means. Claim 15 is fully supported by the specification. For example, the resolution converter 1, shown in Figure 1, acts as an image enlargement and reduction means, as discussed at least at page 11, lines 16-18 of the specification. Accordingly, newly added Claim 15 does not add any new matter.

The image processing apparatus of Claim 16 further includes trimming means for trimming a part of the input image, wherein the multiscreen synthesis means composes the one screen by arranging the plural images trimmed by the trimming means. Claim 16 is fully supported in the specification. For example, the resolution converter 1 shown in Figure 1, can be used to trim images, as discussed in the specification with the reference to the second and third embodiments at page 16, line 9 - page 18, line 23. No new matter is added by Claim 16.

7

In the image processing apparatus of Claim 17, the image quality adjustment value which is determined in advance before performing the image quality adjustment operation, is a value which was previously set at a time of manufacturing of the apparatus. Claim 17 is fully supported in the specification, at least at, page 19, lines 12-14. No new matter is added by Claim 17.

In the image processing apparatus of newly added Claim 18, the image quality adjustment value includes the image quality adjustment value of each of lightness, contrast, chromaticity, hue, RGB (red, green and blue) balance, color temperature, gamma characteristics, and sharpness. This claim is full supported in the specification, at least at, for example, page 13, lines 4-9. Claim 18 adds no new matter.

Newly added Claim 19 relates to an image processing method including steps that perform functions parallel to the operation of the means recited for the image processing apparatus of Claim 1. Likewise, newly added Claim 20 relates to a computer-readable storage medium which stores a program for executing an image processing method including the steps performed by the method of Claim 20. Newly added Claims 19 and 20 are fully supported throughout the specification, and they add no new matter.

With the features recited in the independent claims, image quality adjustment is made easier for a user. This is achieved by using a multiscreen method to display a first image obtained by adjusting an input image based on a default adjustment value, and a second image obtained by adjusting the input image based on a set adjustment value. For example, as shown in Figures 2, 4, 5, and 7 of the present application, the first image, obtained by adjusting the input image based on the default adjustment value, and the second image, obtained by adjusting the input image based on the set adjustment value, are lined up and displayed. With these claimed features, a user can adjust the input image

8

more easily because the user can compare the plural adjusted and displayed images of the input image.

Applicant submits that <u>Parulski</u> does not teach or suggest the features recited in the independent claims. Specifically, <u>Parulski</u> relates to systems for storing and reproducing digitized sound and images. Figures 6-8 of <u>Parulski</u> show plural images of different subjects lined up and displayed. However, <u>Parulski</u> does not disclose the features recited in Applicant's independent claims, of displaying on one screen both first and second images obtained by adjusting an input image using different adjustment values.
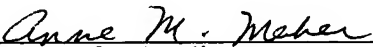
Accordingly, Applicant submits that the independent claims are patentably distinguishable from <u>Parulski</u>.

In addition, Applicant submits that the dependent claims are patentably distinguishable from the cited art for at least the reasons discussed above for their respective base claims. In addition, Applicant submits that the dependent claims recite additional features, as discussed above, that further distinguish them from the cited art, and respectfully requests individual consideration of each dependent claim.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Entry of this Amendment , and favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of this application, are respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C., office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address below.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne M. Maher
Attorney for Applicant
Anne M. Maher
Registration No. 38,231

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
AMM/agm

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10